

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 3-KS-W-06-22

Issued at: Fairbanks, Monday, April 18, 2022

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Thursday, June 23, 2022

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Monday, August 15, 2022, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order closes sport fishing for king salmon in all fresh waters from Bald Head to Point Romanof. This closure includes, but is not limited to, the Unalakleet, Shaktoolik, Koyuk, Ungalik, Inglutalik, and Golsovia river drainages. In addition, only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used in these drainages.

All king salmon caught incidentally in the waters described above while fishing for other species may not be removed from the water and must be release immediately.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 70.011. (c)(10) and 5 AAC 70.030. (f) are added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Thursday, June 23 through 11:59 p.m. Thursday, August 15, 2022:

5 AAC 70.011. Seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the Northwestern Area.

(c)(10) In all fresh waters from Bald Head to Point Romanof, sport fishing for king salmon is closed. King salmon incidentally caught while fishing for other species may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately.

5 AAC 70.030. Methods, means, and general provisions – Finfish.

(f) In all fresh waters from Bald Head to Point Romanof, only unbaited, single-hook, artificial lures may be used.

Douglas Vincent-Lang
Commissioner

By delegation to: Brendan Scanlon

Brendan Scanlon
Northwest and North Slope Area Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The 2022 preseason outlook for the Unalakleet River drainage king salmon run is expected to be insufficient to provide for a moderate harvestable surplus. As a result, the Unalakleet River inriver subsistence fishery will close effective 12:01 a.m. Thursday, June 23rd. According to the *Subdistricts 5 and 6 of the Norton Sound District and the Unalakleet River King Salmon Management Plan* (5AAC 04.395), when the inriver subsistence fishery is closed to the retention of king salmon, sport fishing for king salmon will be closed.

The department does not have reliable inseason stock assessment information for the Shaktoolik, Koyuk, Ungalik, Inglutalik, and Golsovia river drainages, but these king salmon runs generally trend with Unalakleet River stocks. The closure of sport fishing for king salmon in these rivers will provide protection for returning fish. The restriction to one unbaited, single-hook artificial lure while sport fishing is in accordance with provisions set forth in 5 AAC 75.003 (1)(A). This action should minimize catch-and-release mortality for king salmon incidentally caught while sport fishing for other species.

The department will continue to evaluate inseason run strength and take appropriate management actions to ensure that escapement requirements are met. If inseason stock assessment information indicates that the king salmon escapement objectives in the Unalakleet River will be met, restrictions may be relaxed.

DISTRIBUTION:

The distribution list for this emergency order is on file at the Region III Office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, 1300 College Road, Fairbanks, AK 99701, (907) 459-7207.